

A New Species of *Maechidius* (Coleoptera: Melolonthinae) from North Queensland

E. B. Britton

Dr. Georg Frey has kindly sent to me specimens of a species of *Maechidius* which, upon examination, proves to be new. The description of the species follows:

***Maechidius tridentatus* sp. n.**

Length: c. 8 mm. Head and pronotum black, elytra and pygidium and ventral surface very dark reddish brown; surface largely obscured; legs, antennae and palpi reddish brown. Clypeus with lateral edges sinuate, anterior edge tridentate (fig. 1). Punctures of the surface of the clypeus frons

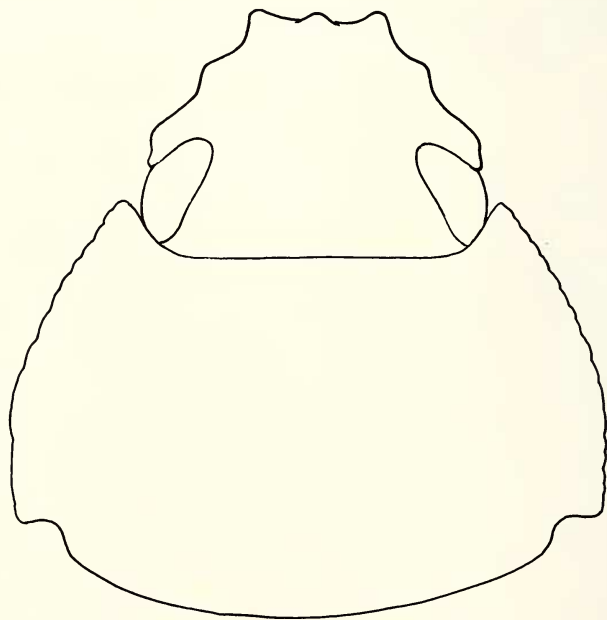


Fig. 1: *Maechidius tridentatus* sp. n.
Outline of head and pronotum

and pronotum large (c. 0.1 mm diam.) and circular, each with a semierect, backwardly curved, yellowish seta of about same length as the puncture;

frons with one or two longer, more erect setae close to the inner anterior margin of the eye; surface of frons not inflated, without a declivity at the inner edge of the eye; pronotum with the base obviously produced posteriorly behind the posterior angles (fig. 1), which are approximately square; anterior angles acute; each lateral edge with about 19 faint crenulations. Elytra with intervals 1, 3, 5 and 7 each bearing a double row of backwardly directed yellowish brown setae, the setae of length up to 0,2 mm; the broader adjacent intervals 2, 4, 6, 8 bearing more numerous, shorter (c. 0,06 mm) yellowish brown setae. Pygidium with sparse, semierect setae up to 0,25 mm in length. Anterior tibia with two obvious teeth on the apical third of the outer edge in addition to the apical process. All claws with a membranous pulvillus beneath. Posterior tibia without a transverse ridge near the middle of the outer side but with a single unusually stout setae at about 0,35 of the outer length of the tibia from the apex. Posterior tibia with two apical spurs, the upper spur being slightly less than half as long as the lower. The basal segment of the posterior tarsus long, twice as long as the second segment and 1,25 times the combined length of segments 2 and 3. Mentum with a flat punctured surface, not projecting downwards.

The species clearly belongs to the *insularis* species group (Britton, 1957, Revision of Australian Chafers: 136). It is, however, distinguished from both *M. insularis* and *M. stradbokensis* by the tridentate clypeal margin (fig. 1).
Locality: North Queensland: Innisfail, 28. XI.–13. XII. 1961 (H. De-marz) holotype ♀, 1 paratype ♀.

Location of Types: holotype ♀ in the Museum G. Frey, Tutzing bei München, Germany. Paratype ♀ in the British Museum (Natural History).